

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Lolayekar, Santosh C., et al.

Serial No. 10/051,396

Group Art Unit: 2416

Filed: January 18, 2002

Examiner: Grey, Christopher

Title: Virtualization in a Storage System

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**RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the thirteen-way (13-way) Election/Restriction requirement of July 6, 2009, requiring Applicants to elect a single one of thirteen different species identified by the Examiner for continued prosecution in this application.

Applicants traverse and request reconsideration of the Election/Restriction requirement for the reasons set forth below, but nevertheless, in order to be responsive, provisionally elect to prosecute "Species IV" identified by the Examiner as shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

The claims encompassing the elected species are method Claims 1 – 16 and 18 - 23; apparatus Claims 24 – 33 (independent Claims 30 and 32 are means plus function linking claims that link the apparatus and method claims); and computer product Claims 34 – 35 for controlling the apparatus to perform the claimed method. Claims 1 – 16 and 18 – 35 are generic because all limitations of these claims are encompassed in the elected Figs. 6 - 7.